



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

450 N Street
Sacramento
California 95814

BILL LEONARD
Member, BOE
Second District

RAMON J. HIRSIG
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LEONARD ANNOUNCES MAJOR REVISION TO
BOARD RULES OF PRACTICE**
Input Sought on California Tax Administration and Appellate Review

Bill Leonard, Member of the California State Board of Equalization, today announced the Board would seek public input on a major revision to its rules of practice beginning with a September 28 Board meeting. The Board of Equalization Rules for California Tax Administration and Appellate Review -- launched by the Board this Summer -- will replace the Board's current rules of practice with more comprehensive guidelines to guarantee a fair hearing with due process for all taxpayers.

The Taxpayers Bill of Rights provides that "taxes are the most sensitive point of contact between citizens and their government." The Board recognizes this sensitivity and invites interested persons to help bolster the public nature and openness of the Board's operations.

Promoting taxpayer accessibility to Board Members and allowing the free flow of information will also allow the quasi-judicial body to continue to hold effective public hearings and render fair decisions.

Specifically, the revision will establish additional regulations and guidelines for the issuance of decisions, the publication of opinions, the scheduling of hearings, and will also describe the nature of Board hearings.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board that hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. It collects more than \$44 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services.

The September 28 Board meeting will provide an overview and introduce the proposed new regulations at Board Headquarters at 450 N Street in Sacramento. For more information visit <http://www.boe.ca.gov/regs/timelineCAtax.htm> or see the attached interested parties letter.

Written comments regarding BOE practices, including suggested language for inclusion in the revision, may be directed to the Board's Regulation Coordinator (MIC: 80), 450 N Street, Sacramento CA 94279-0080.

Bill Leonard, of Sacramento/Ontario, was elected to his first term as Second District Member of the State Board of Equalization in 2002. Prior to his election, he served in the State Assembly (1978-1988, 1996-2002) and in the State Senate (1988-1996).

Other Board Members include Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District;

Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; Chairman John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District and State Controller Steve Westly.

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